

FITNESS

Holidays the Healthy Way

The holidays are in full swing, which means lots of family, fun...*and FOOD!* But it doesn't have to mean extra pounds. Even holiday treats can fit into a healthy eating plan. The key is balance and moderation.

To avoid holiday weight gain, balance the calories you consume with the calories you burn. Physical activity and moderate food choices will help. The tips below are gifts you can give yourself and your family to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Let the holiday spirit move you!

If you make your family time active, you will become healthier and have fun doing so. Be adventurous and try something new, but also choose something you enjoy.

- Stick to your regular exercise routine as much as possible. Especially during the holidays, plan your physical activity routine in advance (don't leave it up to chance). Mark it on the calendar and consider it as important as any other appointment. Get at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity daily, and more if possible.
- Cut back on your family's television viewing time. Limit the number of hours your children spend playing video games. Instead make a new holiday tradition. Take a brisk walk (or wheel) around the neighborhood to see the holiday decorations or grab your bike, walking shoes or snow shoes and head out to the nearest trails or national park.
- Play some backyard football or Frisbee with children and adults before the big holiday dinner or during football half-time.
- Dance or exercise to your favorite holiday music.
- Make a New Year's resolution with friends to start a daily walking group.
- Be physically active to avoid or relieve the holiday stress.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

